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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 23 | Humidity 26% Partly Sunny Sensex 78,111 | Nifty 24,231 | Gold 1,54,171 | Silver 2,52,539 | Dollar 93.25 | Euro 110.03 | GBP 126.55

Traffic authorities have booked nearly 180 cases of overloaded vehicles on an average daily in city — excess passengers is biggest violation, but three-wheelers packed with both goods and people are most dangerous of them all

LOCKED & LOADED

Commercial vehicles, school transport, and public carriers in police radar

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The Bengaluru Traffic enforcement data has revealed that the number of overloading violations remain high in the city, raising questions about road safety and compliance with transport regulations. According to data, a total of 16,205 overloading-related violations have been recorded across three categories, which means on an average, authorities booked nearly 180 such violations per day. Of these, the highest number is 7,952 cases of vehicles carrying excess passengers. A senior traffic official noted that such violations are increasingly common among the younger generation.

On an average, daily about 88 cases of vehicles carrying excess passengers were booked. Joint Commissioner of Traffic Karthik Reddy stated that it is seen that parents often hire auto or cab drivers to pick up and drop children to school, which leads to overloading. "Similarly, instances of goods vehicles carrying extra passengers are frequently observed near construction sites, where labourers either travel to work or sit in the rear cabin to take care of goods materials," he said.

He added that both types of violations are commonly seen during non-peak hours and have been taken very seriously by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

"Although there is no specific provision addressing goods carried on two-wheelers, such cases are booked under dangerous driving or when the load causes obstruction to traffic —Traffic police official

Cruising on

Blistering attack by Rasikh Dar ensures RCB has an easy chase

PAGE 7

Har Pal Aapke Haath
PRESENTING
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THINGS TO DO

01 Laughs on the loose

Known for his authentic style and dynamic performances, renowned Indian stand-up comedian and content creator Harsh Gujral brings his signature humour to Bengaluru, with an all new live performance called 'Harsh O Ullas'. **Where: MLR Convention Centre by Brigade Hospitality; When: April 17, 8 pm**

02 Nature's classroom

Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavathi backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills. **Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991; When: Until April 23, May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25**

03 Turning chill mode on

SOCIAL and BOSS Burger bring the BOSS Block Party with live BOSS Burger counters in a relaxed, sundowner-style setting that blends food, drinks, games, and music into one easygoing block-party experience. **Where: Koramangala SOCIAL; When: April 19, 2 pm**

04 Creative corner

Atta Galatta is presenting an Indie Authors Social, focusing on the challenges faced by independent writers, offering opportunities to connect, set 1–3 year goals, and collaborate, aiming to support authors in shaping their creative journeys. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 19, 11 am**

05 Flavourful finds

Amay Dessert Studio presents a chocolate tasting experience where guests can explore flavour, texture, and storytelling while sampling a curated selection that highlights the nuances of cocoa, the craft behind each piece, and the stories connected to them. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 19, 1 pm**

A brush with reality

Artist's mural painted at metro station in 2024 captures challenges of present day, with businesses and auto drivers struggling following disruption of LPG supply

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KAUSHIK JN

Mural painted by Manjunatha HP at Rashtreeya Vidyalaya Road Metro Station in 2024

Geopolitical tensions involving Israel, Iran and the USA have disrupted supply chains, delaying cylinder deliveries and leaving households, restaurants, and auto rickshaw drivers under strain. Against this backdrop, a mural painted in 2024 at Rashtreeya Vidyalaya Road Metro Station reflects India's ongoing socio economic and LPG crises. Visual artist Manjunatha HP, from Hassan, recalled being selected by BMRCL during the Bengaluru Habba competition, where ten artists were assigned metro stations to create murals. Observing migrant labourers loading and unloading cylinders and auto rickshaws waiting despite no parking signs, he noted how these scenes, alongside people sleeping on footpaths, were deeply tied to the everyday realities of the area.

Manjunatha said he chose to depict these scenes to speak about the struggles migrants face in securing basic needs when they arrive in the city in search of a livelihood. He added that, although the artwork was created then, it has become strikingly relevant to the present-day scenario.

RIPPLES OF WAR

In conversation with BM, Manjunatha explained the meaning behind his recent mural of a man sleeping on an LPG cylinder. He noted that before creating this work, he had painted Sheshashayana, a piece that reimagines Hindu iconography through the lens of everyday labour. In the artwork, the traditional image of Lord Vishnu reclining on the serpent is replaced by a common labourer, dressed in a simple red shirt and grey trousers. Instead of a crown, his head is covered with a woven basket, symbolising the working class. From his navel emerges a lotus bearing Lord Brahma, suggesting creation itself stems from labour work. At his feet, Goddess Lakshmi appears in devotion, while the serpent Shesha upholds the scene.

The artist aims to convey that a labourer is the creator of his own destiny.

After completing Sheshashayana, Manjunatha created the cylinder mural, which he says embodies the concept of "Bhagiratha," rooted in Hindu mythology and now seen as a metaphor for perseverance and extraordinary effort. He explained that Bhagiratha reflects the Kannada phrases "marali eddu baa" or "marali eddu madu," meaning "rise again and act," emphasising resilience after failure. To illustrate, he cited the example of an ant carrying a heavy load, falling yet rising again with determination, never giving up.

"During the course of this work, I drew on the idea again of the 'lane man'. I once observed a man sleeping peacefully on a footpath despite the many challenges in his life, living in an unfamiliar city, selling balloons and small items just to survive. Yet, in the midst of all this pressure, including the sound of traffic or fear of a dog coming and biting him or someone questioning him or threatening him, he remained calm and slept at ease," Manjunatha said.

Further reflecting on this, he said that he was reminded of Bhishma from the Mahabharata, who lay on a bed of arrows. "Drawing a parallel, I used the image of a gas cylinder as a metaphor for pressure suggesting that if one focuses only on life's burdens, it becomes painful," he said. He also included a water tank in the painting, symbolising a basic human need. Through these elements, he aimed to portray the calm resilience of the individual, conveying that patience and composure will ultimately lead to meaningful results.

Commenting on today's situation, Manjunatha says his concept is not very different from reality. "Many people who migrated to cities for better opportunities, including small hotel owners and auto drivers, are struggling now with daily commitments. LPG is a basic necessity. From cooking at home to running small eateries and autos using CNG, everyone depends on it. Just as people stand in long queues at temples, today they are standing in lines for LPG cylinders from early morning," he said.

Age relaxation for Class 1 admissions only for 2026–27

Karnataka government's decision to allow a 60-day relaxation in the minimum age requirement for Class 1 admissions will be applicable only for the 2026–27 academic year. Education department officials have cautioned parents against assuming that such relaxations will continue in future, and advised them to be mindful of their child's age at the time of LKG admission itself.

An official said, "Instead of struggling later when children are denied Class 1 admission for not completing six years of age, parents are encouraged to ensure that their child has completed four years before enrolling in LKG." Hence, officials warn that if the six-year age rule is strictly enforced going forward, no relaxation may be granted. Similarly, for nursery admissions, children should ideally be three years old. This way, the child completes LKG at five years and UKG at six, ensuring they meet the age requirement for Class 1 without any complications, officials added. **— BMB**

K'taka unveils India's first Quantum Ecosystem Map

Marking a major milestone on World Quantum Day 2026, Karnataka became the first state in India to unveil a comprehensive Quantum Ecosystem Map, under the programme "From Vision to Reality," state Minister NS Boseraju said on Wednesday. The Science & Technology minister said the initiative formally marks the launch of Phase 1 of the State's Quantum Roadmap. He was addressing a gathering at the World Quantum Day event organised by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, his office said in a release.

Highlighting the state's leadership in emerging technologies, Boseraju said Karnataka is steadily positioning itself as a national frontrunner and global hub in quantum innovation. "We are the first state in India to come up with a Quantum Ecosystem Map," he said. **— PTI**

Just 3.35% households participate in census self-enumeration

The self-enumeration phase of the 2027 Census in Karnataka has received a lukewarm response, with only 3.35 per cent of households participating over 14 days. The exercise, which began on April 1 concluded on Wednesday, paving the way for the next phase of house listing and housing census starting April 16. Bengaluru Urban recorded an even lower response at just 0.98 per cent, reflecting limited public engagement despite the state's digital reach.

From April 16 to May 15, enumerators will conduct door-to-door visits across the state to collect details on housing conditions, amenities, and assets as part of the first phase of the Census. Sources said that over 2 lakh enumerators have been deployed across all 31 districts, with a 33-question survey covering key household data. Officials have assured that all information will remain confidential and not be shared or used legally. However, concerns have emerged among staff over training issues, workload, and pending payments. The low participation in self-enumeration is attributed to lack of awareness, technical barriers such as GPS-based location requirements, and a general preference among citizens to provide details during physical visits instead. **— BMB**

No agents, just AI-gents

Bengaluru travellers turn to AI for planning, ditching apps and agents as ChatGPT and Gemini guide trips, savings, routes and itineraries across destinations

Iffath Fathima @timesofindia.com

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For many travellers from Bengaluru, planning a holiday no longer begins with juggling multiple apps or comparing endless tabs. Instead, artificial intelligence is quietly taking over the role of a travel planner, helping users pick budget-friendly accommodation, map routes, and even avoid overpriced tourist traps. For Bengaluru-based AI engineer Bharathi Athinarayanan, a recent trip to Thailand became a live demonstration of this shift. Instead of relying on conventional apps or agents, he turned to Google Gemini to manage everything from logistics to budgeting.

"The AI was instrumental in pinpointing the exact train connections from our hotel to the airport. In a city known for its unpredictable traffic, that real-time precision is what actually helped us catch our flight on time," he said.

Beyond navigation, the AI helped him uncover hidden deals and avoid unnecessary expenses. "By letting the AI crunch the numbers and compare the fine print of various deals, I managed to save a significant amount that would have otherwise gone towards convenience fees or inflated tourist rates," he explained.

Faced with multiple tour packages, Athinarayanan used Gemini to filter overpriced options and find reliable operators for an authentic experience. In Chatuchak Market, AI helped him translate and bargain like a local. He called it a "co-pilot" that handled bookings, logistics and negotiations, reducing effort and letting him focus on time with his daughter.Another traveller, Misha Sharma, Account Executive at Adfactors PR, who recently undertook a spiritual trip to Vrindavan and Agra, credits ChatGPT for turning what could have been a hectic plan into a seamless experience.

"I used ChatGPT to plan a short Vrindavan–Agra trip from January 4–8, blending spirituality and history. It created a structured itinerary with ideal timings, travel tips, and hotel options across budgets, helping me make quick decisions without browsing multiple platforms. The plan was well-paced, allowing me to cover everything without feeling rushed. What stood out was the personalised approach, AI understood my intent to start the year on a spiritual note, balancing temple visits with light exploration, while also suggesting travel routes,

Digital systems elevate travel, helping global visitors save, find deals and enjoy personalised, seamless and efficient experiences

local transport, and nearby food options," she said.

Tarun U, working as a business analyst and team lead (IC), pointed out that he used ChatGPT and Gemini both for his recent travel to Wayanad and Mysore. "ChatGPT mapped destinations, while Gemini identified top-rated restaurants and experiences, including Wayanad's longest zipline. It also suggested budget-based stays with key amenities and guided me to check live prices before booking."

Tarun noted that AI acted as a stress-free travel planner, handling all the heavy lifting for research and saving him a significant amount of time. "Because the itinerary was so well aligned with my preferences, I was able to step into the role of 'trip coordinator' with total confidence. My friends were quite impressed with the seamless planning, and the AI ultimately helped deliver a fulfilling and well-organised getaway," he said.

Skyway's familiarity with destinations goes beyond the expected

There was a time when planning a holiday felt like the beginning of the journey. Today, it often feels like work. Multiple tabs open, endless comparisons, calls that lead nowhere, and decisions that demand reconsideration. What begins as anticipation gradually turns into effort. In a world of abundant choice, what travelers truly value is time and the ease that should naturally come with it.

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FILM PAGE 9 **Love triangle chaos**

Rejected suitor turns violent stalker

A woman posted a video on social media stating that sharing her modelling profile with a prospective recruiter turned into a traumatic experience. According to her, a man named Zoeb approached her for a project and developed an instant liking for her in 2024. She says that since then, she has been harassed by him after refusing to marry him.

The woman stated that from February this year, the situation escalated and he began issuing death threats if she did not agree to marry him. Recently, the man allegedly went to her house and assaulted her in an uncontrollable and heinous manner, clips of which have gone viral.

The woman has lodged a complaint with the police, who are currently questioning the accused. The victim appeared visibly shaken and has shared screenshots of their conversations publicly in the video. She has urged the police and the public to look out for her, stating that the accused claims to come from an influential background. —BMB

Midnight coconut theft caught on cam

A woman was caught stealing coconuts from a shop named Sri Lakshmi Devi Rice Corner in Nagapura. A video of the incident has gone viral on Instagram, where the woman is seen stealing around 15 coconuts at 3 am. The footage was recorded by a camera installed at the shop.

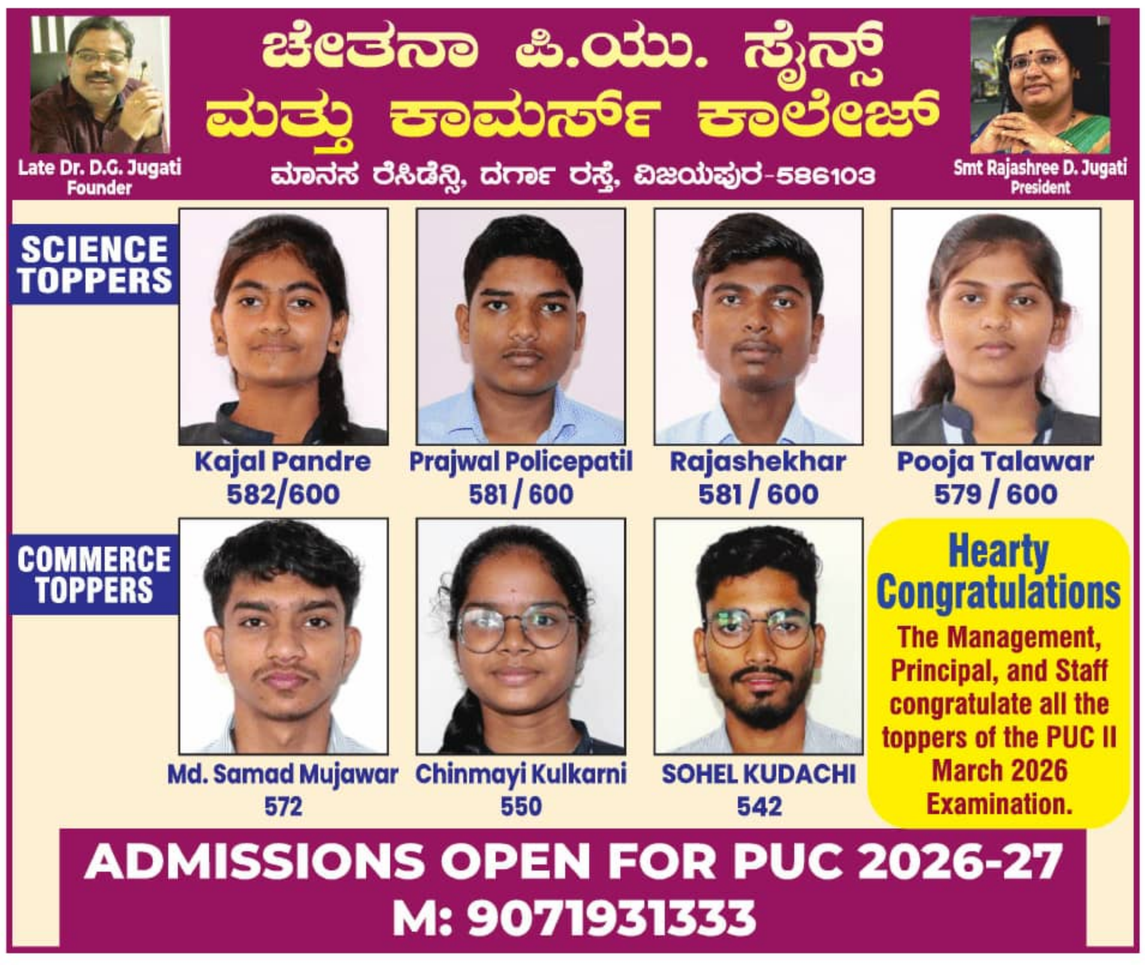
It was also found that the woman had earlier been warned when she attempted the theft for the first time. According to the shop owner, he had been keeping a constant vigil and was waiting for the person to return and carry out the act again.

This raises concerns for small business owners, who operate on thin margins and are vulnerable to such repeated thefts. Mahalaxmi Layout police are reviewing the footage. —BMB

Quick response saves burn victim

A person called the police on April 13, at around 11:34 pm after noticing a 40-year-old woman suffering from burn injuries near Mariamman Temple. Hoysala 234 reached the spot within 11 minutes of receiving the information.

Police found the woman critical, rushed her to Victoria Hospital, and provided timely aid that improved her survival chances. —BMB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Schools stuck in offline mode

Karnataka government schools lag behind digital push, as thousands remain offline despite rising national connectivity figures and major rural broadband expansion efforts

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Internet access in government schools across Karnataka remains limited, with only 17,702 institutions currently equipped with connectivity, according to data presented in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Ministry of Education. So far, there are more than 48,000 government schools in Karnataka.

The figures were shared in response to a question raised by Dr Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade, with Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary providing details on the status of digital infrastructure in schools.

As per the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024–25, Karnataka has 17,702 government schools with functional internet facilities. In addition, 3,586 schools across upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels have Information and Communication Technology (ICT) labs, indicating partial progress in

Limited internet access in state-run institutions highlights widening education divide, with remote campuses struggling for infrastructure even as funding, technology initiatives and rollout plans continue to progress

digital enablement. The data highlights the gap in digital access at a time when online resources and smart learning tools are becoming integral to school education. While connectivity has improved over the years, a significant number of government schools in the state are yet to be brought online.

Sadika Tabassum, retired head mistress said, "In a government school in Kogilu Layout, it is very basic. There are computers but no access to them or the internet. Most government schools do not have internet access. There is a Kannada school in the same premises; they have computers, but the Urdu school does not. Internet in government schools is very important as it gives students access to vast knowledge, digital learning resources and up-to-date information. It also helps improve teaching methods and prepares students for a technology-driven world."

A nodal officer from the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) said that the organisation is currently operating 874 residential schools and colleges across the state. "Out of these, 660 institutions are functioning in their own buildings, while 214 are operating in rented and rent-free buildings. Among the 214 rented and rent-free institutions, those located in feasible areas have been provided with internet connectivity to support ICT-enabled learning. Of the 660 institutions functioning in their own buildings, around 100 schools are situated in remote or non-feasible locations where conventional connectivity is challenging.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a transformative role in the functioning of KREIS schools, which primarily cater to students from marginalised and rural backgrounds. The integration of ICT in KREIS institutions has significantly enhanced the quality of education, improved access to digital resources, and enabled students to compete on par with their urban counterparts. Despite these efforts, some schools located in remote and geographically challenging areas continue to face connectivity issues due to a lack of infrastructure and low network feasibility. To address this, KREIS is adopting hybrid solutions, including offline digital content, wireless technologies and strengthened telecom partnerships to ensure equitable access to ICT-enabled education."

National progress, state-level challenges

At the national level, the Centre noted a steady increase in internet connectivity in government schools. The number rose from 4.7 lakh schools (46.2%) in 2023–24 to 5.93 lakh (58.6%) in 2024–25, reflecting broader efforts to strengthen digital infrastructure across the country.

However, the Karnataka-specific figures indicate that universal access remains a work in progress, especially in rural and remote areas where connectivity challenges persist.

BharatNet push for rural connectivity

The Union government has outlined steps to address the gap through large-scale initiatives. Under the BharatNet project, announced in the Union Budget 2025, broadband connectivity is to be extended to all government secondary schools in rural areas, including those in Karnataka. The rollout is being carried out in phases by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), with a focus on improving digital access in underserved regions. In addition, the Department of School Education and Literacy has advised states and Union Territories to partner with BSNL to provide fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) internet connections to schools that already have computing devices. Funding for recurring internet expenses can be drawn from ICT and smart classroom allocations under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, as well as other state resources.

Hima Bindu, Key Account Manager from the Enterprise Business Unit at the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Circle Office in Bengaluru, said efforts are underway to expand connectivity, with dedicated internet already provided to KREIS schools, especially in remote areas through special approvals.

We are providing FTTH-based connectivity, where a modem with Wi-Fi is installed, allowing students to access the internet through laptops or shared systems in classrooms and libraries. We have also initiated tenders for setting up smart classrooms."

The KREIS nodal officer said leased lines and FTTH will be rolled out with BSNL support, using AirFiber and 4G routers in remote areas. The Centre has allocated ₹3,831.6 lakh for ICT labs and ₹5,126.4 lakh for smart classrooms in 2025–26 to boost digital access in government schools.

A-khata conversion faces delays

Even five months after the launch of the B-Khata to A-Khata conversion scheme, the response has been far below expectations, with a low number of applications and persistent delays in approvals. Introduced on November 1, 2025, the scheme has faced continuous technical and procedural hurdles, from difficulties in submitting online applications to files not moving forward. Even after approvals are granted, many applicants are unable to complete the process as the fee payment link on the portal is not functioning.

Officials had earlier stated that the entire process, including site inspection and multi-level approvals, would be completed within 45 to 60 days. However, several applications, including those submitted in December 2025, remain pending. In many cases, despite clearance from revenue officials and joint commissioners, applicants are stuck at the final payment stage due to technical errors, with helplines advising them to wait. Authorities admit that the issue is widespread and is being handled by the IT team. The conversion fee, around ₹3.5 lakh for a 30x40 site, was expected to generate significant revenue, but with unresolved issues and falling trust, applications have remained below 10,000 so far against an estimated 12 lakh eligible properties. — BMB

Civic failure fuels growing garbage crisis across city

Uncollected rubbish dumped along roadsides, in vacant plots and under flyovers is turning parts of the city into dumping grounds, triggering widespread public outrage against civic authorities. Garbage images online have fuelled criticism of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, with citizens questioning persistent waste issues despite high tax contributions. While civic negligence in waste clearance is criticised, officials blame public behaviour, with residents dumping garbage despite door-to-door collection. A viral plea by a sanitation worker has gained attention, highlighting the issue. Operational gaps, poor segregation, and friction between agencies worsen the problem, while citizens call for more public bins and regular collection. — BMB

Waste rule turns taxing for property owners

Apartment residents within the GBA limits are facing difficulties in paying property tax due to a new condition mandating disclosure of waste generated per flat in kilograms. The rule requires households to specify daily quantities of wet and dry waste, special-care waste and sanitary waste while filing tax online. The Bangalore Apartment Federation has objected, stating that the system has become complicated and impractical, making what should be a simple tax payment process confusing and burdensome. Residents flagged portal glitches, inflated charges, unclear fees, and lack of waste measurement, urging authorities to simplify the system before enforcement. — BMB

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Poster menace

Marathahalli

Illegal posters continue to deface the Marathahalli flyover and Spice Garden bus stop, with no enforcement action or fines imposed.

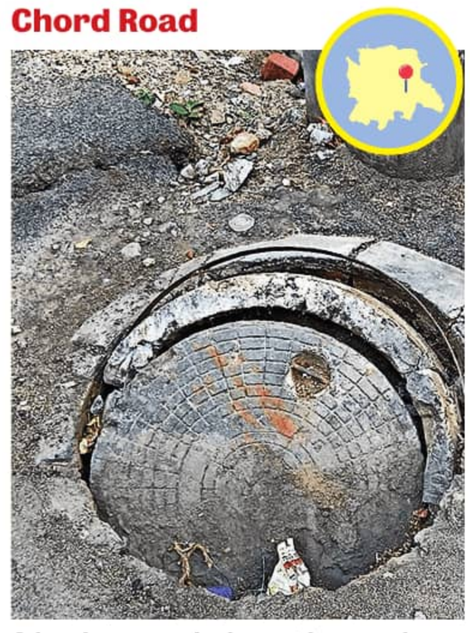
Garbage neglect

Sahakara Nagar

Residents of Sahakara Nagar's 12th Main are facing neglect, as rubbish remains uncollected despite multiple requests for intervention.

Manhole hazard

Chord Road



A broken manhole on the road behind Chord Road Fire Station poses a serious risk to factory workers and night-time commuters.

CRIME FILES

Lost elderly duo reunited with family

Upon noticing two elderly women, aged 65 and 70, lose their way near Pipeline Road in Mallasandra on April 13, at around 10:46 pm, a person in the vicinity called Namma 112. Hoysala 113 from Bagalagunte Police Station quickly reached the reported spot within seven minutes of receiving the alert.

On arrival, the police learnt that the two elderly women were travelling from Gauribidanur to Tammenahalli. En route, they lost their way due to unfamiliarity with the area. Police officials asked if they could contact a family member, and through their phone, they were able to reach their son.

The police asked their son to come to the police station, and after verifying his details, the two women were safely handed over to him. **BMB**

Four held in gold heist case

The Konanakunte police have arrested four accused, including one juvenile in conflict with the law, and recovered 113 grams of gold ornaments worth ₹14,00,000. According to the police, two complaints were lodged by residents within the jurisdiction of Konanakunte Cross.

In one complaint, the victim had locked their house and kept the key near the door window before leaving for work. On returning, the victim was shocked to find that gold ornaments, silver coins and ₹20,000 in cash had been stolen.

In another complaint, it was stated that gold ornaments kept in a trolley bag inside a shelf had been stolen. The victim suspected a person who frequently visited the house for business purposes.

The police conducted enquiries and, upon receiving concrete information, nabbed two accused near Makali Marathahalli Circle, while another was caught on April 5, near Forum Mall. During interrogation, the police learnt about a fourth accomplice, a juvenile, who was secured near Gottigere Bus Stand on April 10. The juvenile confessed, and his mother was summoned, after which he was taken into custody in the presence of a Child Welfare Officer. **BMB**

KR Market wakes up to smoke & panic

A fire broke out in a garbage dump near KR Market in the early hours of Wednesday, sending thick plumes of smoke across the busy market area and causing concern among residents.

According to officials, the incident was reported around 6 am under the market flyover, where a large pile of accumulated garbage caught fire. The flames spread across the dump, burning the waste and filling the surroundings with dense smoke.

Residents and vendors in the area complained of breathing difficulties as smoke spread, briefly causing panic in the usually crowded locality.

Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control, preventing further escalation. No injuries were reported and police said the cause is under investigation. **BMB**

HIGH COURT

Menstrual leave: 'Ensure strict, faithful implementation'

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to ensure the "strict and faithful" implementation of its menstrual leave policy, mandating one day of leave per month for women employees aged 18 to 52. The court clarified that this directive will remain in force until formal legislation is enacted.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Chandravva Hanumant Gokavi, a 41-year-old hotel worker from Mudalgi in Gokak taluk of Belagavi district. The petitioner alleged that despite a November 2025 notification, she had not been granted menstrual leave by her employer.

Taking note of the gap between policy and practice, the court emphasised the State's responsibility during the interim period. It said, "In the interregnum, it shall be incumbent upon the State to ensure effective operationalisation of the policy through the issuance of suitable guidelines, circulars, and administrative instructions, as may be necessary to secure its uniform, consistent and rigorous implementation across all sectors."

Addressing concerns on equality, the court observed, "This court would also observe that the State ought not be deterred or constrained by misplaced apprehensions founded upon a superficial invocation of Article 14. Men and woman stand equal in the eyes of the law, yet they are biologically distinct."

It further stated, "To acknowledge such differences, particularly in matters concerning health, dignity, and bodily autonomy, is not to transgress the guarantee of equality but to give it substantive meaning."

The order comes as the policy faces legal challenges from industry bodies and professionals questioning its legality. The November 2025 notification extends menstrual leave benefits across establishments under key labour laws, including contract and outsourced workers, significantly widening its scope.

In her plea, Chandravva argued that lack of awareness remains a major barrier, particularly in smaller towns, urging the State to publicise the policy and ensure employees are informed about their entitlement. **BMB**

No immediate ban on tiger safaris

The Karnataka High Court has declined to impose an immediate ban on tiger safaris in the State, while seeking a detailed response from the government on concerns surrounding wildlife conservation and eco-tourism.

Hearing a public interest litigation challenging the continuation of safari activities in tiger reserves such as Bandipur National Park and Nagarahole National Park, the court chose not to grant interim relief halting the safaris. Instead, it directed the State to place comprehensive material on record explaining the regulatory framework governing such activities.

The petition raised concerns about the ecological impact of safari tourism, including disturbance to wildlife and the potential increase in human-animal conflict in sensitive forest regions.

During the hearing, the court indicated that the issue required closer scrutiny rather than an immediate prohibition. It observed that a balanced approach was necessary, taking into account both conservation priorities and the role of regulated eco-tourism.

The bench directed State authorities to file a detailed response outlining existing safeguards, compliance with environmental norms, and measures taken to ensure that safari operations do not adversely affect tiger habitats.

The matter has been posted for further consideration after the State submits its reply. **BMB**

Son kills bedridden mother, claims distress

A 42-year-old man was arrested for allegedly murdering his paralysed elderly mother by pushing her from the terrace of a residential building in RR Nagar on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim, Savithramma (72), had been bedridden for the past four to five years due to paralysis. The accused, identified as her son Venkatesh, a sales executive, was taken into custody by the police.

According to police, the family lived in a rented house on the second floor of a three-storeyed building in BEML Layout. Preliminary investigations revealed that Venkatesh, unable to bear his mother's prolonged illness, allegedly carried her to the terrace and pushed her off. She fell to the ground and died on the spot.

Passers-by who witnessed the incident alerted the police. Officials rushed to the scene, conducted a spot inspection, and shifted the body for postmortem. During questioning, the accused reportedly told police he was distressed and could no longer bear her suffering. A case of murder has been registered and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Temple lands under siege as encroachments rise

Thousands of acres of temple lands face illegal occupation, weak records, and administrative lapses, making recovery efforts slow and highly complex

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Across Karnataka, temple properties once safeguarded for religious sustenance are steadily shrinking due to encroachments, poor documentation, and legal hurdles, leaving many institutions struggling to maintain daily rituals and operations

Encroachment has long been rampant in urban landscapes, driven by rising land values and real estate demand, but now even temple properties, once considered sacred and protected, are no longer spared, turning into lucrative targets across both urban and rural Karnataka.

On the lines of issues seen in Waqf properties, thousands of acres of land belonging to temples under the Muzrai and Religious Endowment Department have been encroached upon, illegally registered, or sold, making recovery and protection a major challenge for the government. A Muzrai department official said, "Historically, vast extents of land were granted to temples during the rule of kings as inam and endowment for their maintenance and development. However, after Independence, although temples and their assets came under the Muzrai department, proper documentation to transfer land titles into temple names was not carried out. This administrative lapse led to large-scale encroachments and illegal transactions. While some landless labourers cultivated temple land for survival, influential individuals managed to secure illegal ownership and even transferred such lands. Today, Karnataka has 34,566 temples under the Muzrai department, including 205 A-category, 193 B-category, and 34,168 C-category temples. While A and B category temples have steady income, C category temples depend on government assistance of ₹72,000 annually. With land slipping into private hands, many temples struggle to conduct even daily rituals."

A 2020 government survey revealed that nearly 40,000 acres of temple land have been encroached upon across the state. So far, authorities have measured lands belonging to 7,125 notified temples, covering 18,870 acres, and issued ownership records for 17,202.02 acres. However, measurement and documentation of lands belonging to 27,441 temples remain pending. The government has directed tahsildars in all taluks to process at least five land records every month to accelerate the work.

Officials said clearing encroachments remains a major challenge. In many cases, temple lands, though classified as government or forest land, are not recorded in the temple's name. In both urban and rural local bodies, several temple lands lack proper ownership records. Farmers and priests cultivating such lands have, in some instances, secured ownership under land reform laws. There are also cases where temple lands have been granted to private individuals. Discrepancies in land records further complicate the issue, including joint entries with private individuals, absence of clear land extent details, and mismatches between survey records and revenue documents.

To address these issues, the state government has launched the 'Bhu Varaha' scheme, allocating ₹15 crore in the current budget for systematic documentation and protection of temple properties. The initiative focuses on surveying lands, creating proper ownership records, and securing them through fencing or compound walls. "Proposals under the scheme have already been received from districts such as Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Chikkaballapur, Mandya, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Yadgir and Davanagere. While efforts are underway, including regular review meetings and directions to district officials to speed up eviction drives, reclaiming temple lands and restoring them to rightful ownership remains a complex and long-drawn process for the government," an official added.

Bengaluru–Mumbai rail tops State demands

Karnataka has placed strong emphasis on the proposed Bengaluru–Mumbai high-speed rail corridor, urging the Union Government to take up the project on priority to strengthen connectivity and accelerate regional growth.

In a memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit on Wednesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also called for inclusion of the Bengaluru–Mysuru stretch in the high-speed rail network, stating that faster rail links are crucial for balanced development, particularly in Kittur Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions.

Highlighting the State's significant contribution to the national economy, the memorandum pointed out that several long-pending issues need immediate attention. Karnataka sought early release of funds for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and revival of the railway coach factory in Kolar, for which it has already provided 1,123 acres of land. The State said the project will boost industrial development and create employment in the backward region.

The government also demanded release of ₹17,554 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission and ₹2,860 crore in pending grants to gram panchayats recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. In addition, it sought ₹5,495 crore in revenue deficit grants and a special grant of ₹6,000 crore for Bengaluru to strengthen infra-

structure. Karnataka flagged that it has not received any major new national highway projects in the past 12 years and called for urgent sanction and implementation of pending works. On irrigation and water resources, the State urged expedited approval of the Mekedatu project and release of ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project, along with national project status. It also pressed for approval of AIIMS in Raichur and other key clearances. — BMB

Wind Tunnel Jn underpass work begins amid doubts over 100-day deadline

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Finally, the process of constructing an underpass at Wind Tunnel Junction on HAL Airport Road has commenced. The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has initiated the work, and the project is expected to be completed within 100 days. The proposal to build the underpass is part of the signal-free corridor project that was first initiated more than a decade ago. Authorities, in consultation with the traffic police, are making alternative arrangements for vehicular movement along the stretch during the construction period.

Residents and social activists have welcomed the long-awaited move but remain skeptical about the ambitious 100-day deadline. They have also raised concerns about potential traffic disruptions on one of the city's busiest corridors.

"I have never come across any project undertaken by the respective City Corporations that is completed in three months or 100 days. I want the authorities to take measures to avoid gridlock on this busy road during the construction of the underpass. I want to suggest that traffic police reopen the 'U' turn opposite Sir M Visvesvaraya College to make it easy for motorists from Konena Agrahara and other localities who want to proceed towards HAL or Marathahalli. With the closure of the 'U' turn, now motorists have to go all the way up to Wind Tunnel Junction to take a 'U' turn to proceed towards Marthahalli and other areas," said Shivashankar Rajiv, a resident of Konena Agrahara.

Construction starts at a key bottleneck near ISRO Junction, with authorities promising 100-day completion amid concerns over congestion, diversions, and past delays.

Urban strategist Vinod Jacob pointed out that the ISRO Junction, also known as Wind Tunnel Junction, remains a major bottleneck with a complex four-way intersection. It handles traffic from ISRO staff entry, EGL IT Park on Wind Tunnel Road, and vehicles coming from Marathahalli. "With the HAL underpass, it creates severe congestion that must be addressed through clear signage for free left turns in all four directions. Also, no parking in all the major junctions for 50 meters and bus bays required on old airport rd. This needs synchronisation with signals at the adjacent Manipal Junction and Domlur, to prevent spillover gridlock. Otherwise, this high-traffic corridor linking HAL airport, ISRO, and Manipal Hospital, intended as a signal-free corridor will remain a signal choked nightmare," said Vinod Jacob.

'Stating that the Signal Free Corridor underpass has been on paper since 2009, for over 15 years with no transparency or accountability, Poornima Shetty, president of United RWA of Konena Agrahara and Founder Director of Iron Feather Foundation (Safety for Women) said she welcomes it for easing traffic, but its success depends on timely execution (100 days).

"We urge the government to publish a real-time accountability dashboard with clear milestones and deadlines, so that citizens have visibility on progress. This stretch already faces serious pedestrian safety issues, footpaths are misused by two-wheeler riders, cycling tracks are underutilised, and frequent VIP movement adds to disruptions. The project must prioritize not just traffic flow, but pedestrian safety and enforcement," she said.

Rasikh Dar's bowling attack sets scene for easy chase

Bengaluru makes short work of LSG

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar, left, and Virat Kohli

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After Rasikh Salam Dar picked four wickets to keep Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) limited to 146 runs in 20 overs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 played at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, the rest was easy for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Virat Kohli was one short of his half century, but the job was already done. With 20s by Rajat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma, RCB was almost home.

Dar shines

Coming to bat after losing the toss, LSG endured a sluggish start as openers Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram found it difficult to score freely against the disciplined new-ball spell from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood. The duo crawled to 14/0 after two overs.

Marsh broke the shackles in the third over with a towering 102-metre six off Bhuvneshwar, while Markram followed it up with a maximum in the next over. However, Markram's brief stay ended on the final ball of that over, as he mistimed a slower delivery from Rasikh Salam Dar and was caught by Devdutt Padikkal for 12 (8).

LSG suffered a major setback soon after when captain Rishabh Pant injured his elbow and had to walk off after facing just three deliveries. Nicholas Pooran, who came in next, failed to make an impact and was clean bowled by Hazlewood in the seventh over.

Amid the early setbacks, Marsh steadied the innings alongside Ayush Badoni, with the pair adding a quick 36 runs off 22 balls. The partnership was broken in the 10th over when Krunal Pandya bowled Marsh with a fuller delivery. Marsh top-scored with 40 off 32 balls, including three fours and two sixes.

Krunal struck again in his next over to dismiss Abdul Samad for a duck, putting LSG further on the back foot.

Badoni then attempted to anchor the innings, combining with youngster Mukul Choudhary to rebuild the innings with sensible strike rotation and occasional boundaries. However, the stand was broken in the 16th over when Badoni edged a short, slower ball from Rasikh to the wicketkeeper after scoring 38 off 24 balls.

Pant returned to bat later but struggled for rhythm and was dismissed for just one run in the 17th over. Mukul continued to fight at the other end, scoring 39 off 28 balls, but wickets kept falling regularly. He was eventually bowled by Rasikh in the final over as LSG were bowled out for 146.

Among the bowlers, Rasikh was the standout performer with four wickets, while Bhuvneshwar claimed three. Hazlewood delivered an economical spell of 1/20 in his four overs, playing a key role in restricting the opposition.

—Agencies

Many moods of the RCB fan

RCB fans cheer during the RCB vs LSG IPL match at M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Lucknow Super Giants' Australian cricket player Mitchell Marsh (L) watches as Royal Challengers Bengaluru's wicket keeper India's Jitesh Sharma jumps to fields the ball du

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rasikh Salam Dar celebrates with teammates after dismissing Lucknow Super Giants' Ayush Badoni

Rishabh Pant suffers nasty blow on left elbow off Hazlewood delivery

LUCKNOW SUPER Giants were dealt a telling blow as skipper Rishabh Pant badly injured his left elbow after being hit by a rising delivery from Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Josh Hazlewood during an IPL match here on Wednesday.

Pant, who recently made comeback to competitive cricket in IPL after recovering from left abdominal injury sustained during an India net session, now would be praying that it's more of a bruise and not a fracture.

The injury was sustained in the fifth over when Hazlewood got one to climb straight as Pant tried a pull shot and missed completely and was being hit on the bony part of left elbow.

He played one more ball but the excruciating pain forced him to take a medical break as LSG physio Patrick Farhart rushed in.

Pant tried hard to see if there was mobility in his elbow but he was writhing in pain and decided to walk off in a distraught manner. The condition of his elbow -- whether there is a fracture can only be ascertained after the swelling reduces and MRI can be done.

Pant, however, returned to bat in the 16th over after Ayush Badoni's dismissal with LSG tottering at 118 for 5. But he didn't last long, getting out an over later caught behind the stumps by Phil Salt of Bhuvneshwar Kumar. He made just 1 off 6 balls. **PTI**

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Take a load off, folks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

department, as they contribute to road accidents. "Along with awareness initiatives, we are carrying out strict enforcement measures, including special drives," he said.

According to the DCP (Traffic East) Sahil Bagla, such violations are most commonly seen in three-wheelers. He noted that overloading and improper transport practices affect vehicle stability and control, often leading to accidents. Despite regular enforcement drives and awareness campaigns, strict action remains essential to ensure public safety. Traffic officials have been carrying out special checks at major junctions, targeting commercial vehicles, school transport, and public carriers. He added that cases involving the transportation of lengthy materials are monitored by the RTO, which also conducts awareness initiatives on safe practices.

A traffic official attached to the Banaswadi Traffic Police Station explained that, as per law, auto-rickshaws are permitted to carry a maximum of three passengers, excluding the driver. However, violations are frequently observed, particularly during the day when autos ferry drops schoolchildren, and in busy areas such as bus stands and railway stations. And during night time this violation is commonly seen in railway stations, the official said.

The official noted that many drivers refuse to operate on meters or app-based fares, instead overloading their vehicles to charge higher, non-metered rates, often exploiting the urgency of commuters. In several cases, drivers charge passengers on a per-head basis, encouraging them to squeeze in extra riders even allowing passengers to sit on laps. For instance, a trip that would normally cost ₹150–₹160 may be inflated significantly if four or five passengers are accommodated, with drivers charging around ₹50 per person. This practice allows them to earn substantially more than the standard fare while violating safety norms.

Last year, a total of 19,010 cases of carrying excess passengers were reported. In comparison, during the first three months of 2026, authorities recorded 3,812 cases of goods vehicles carrying excess passengers. Meanwhile, in 2025, 6,076 cases of goods vehicles transporting passengers illegally were observed.

A traffic official stated that goods vehicles are meant solely for transporting goods and are not designed to carry passengers. Overloading such vehicles increases the risk of serious accidents. As per the Registration Certificate (RC), only the permitted seating, that is usually one or at most two persons, is allowed. However, violations are frequently seen near construction sites,or when they are transporting goods from one place to another like marriage halls or any events or when shifting things during one home to another home, where safety norms are often ignored and these vehicles are misused to serve a dual purpose of transporting both goods and people.

Another common violation observed is the transportation of lengthy materials, with 4,441 cases reported in the recent period, compared to 7,328 cases earlier. These violations typically involve carrying items such as iron rods, pipes, or ladders on two-wheelers, and are frequently seen in high-density corridors and market areas across Bengaluru.

Traffic police said that although there is no specific provision addressing goods carried on two-wheelers, such cases are booked under dangerous driving or when the load causes obstruction to traffic.

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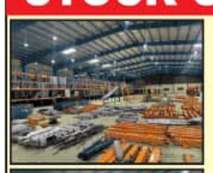

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I, MAMATHA KUMARI H W/o, Babu T P, Resident at Shri Sai Dhathri Nivas Apartment, Flat No. 201, Site No. 62, 2nd Cross, Upadhyaya Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru-560056 have changed my name to , MAMATHA BABU vide Affidavit Dated: 04/04/2026, sworn before Notary D G Shanthappa, Bangalore

I, SAVITHA CHANDRAPPA (OLD NAME) residing at No. 182, Krishnappa Buliding, Chunchagatta, Konanakunte, Bengaluru- 560062 have changed my name to SAVITHA PRABHU (SAVITHA P) vide affidavit dated: 11/4/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Saurav Santhosh Parmar, s/o Santhosh Kumar, R/o No-209 Ramaiyengar Road V V Puram Basavanagudi, B'luru-560004 have changed my name to Sauravh Parmar for all Purposes.

I, ABDUL KHADER ALEEM, R/a.No.1,5th Cross, Shivaji Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore – 560051. I, have Changed my name to ABDUL KHADER, Vide affidavit ,dated 25/10/2025 Sworn before Notary : Meer Hassan Bangalore-

I Chukki Naveen D/O, Bache Gowda R/o 34. Janapada. 2nd Main. Ayyappa Swamy Temple Street. Hebbal Kempapura. Bengaluru - 24 have changed back to my maiden name Chukki B Gowda for all purposes

I, Rambabu Nagabandla S/O Nagabandla Venkatanarayana # No 2/1, 4th main, Muneshwara Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086 have changed my name to Rambabu Nagabandla Venkatanarayana for all purposes

I, Dhireesh Vittal Shenoy Pajekar, R/o Flat No J-301 3rd Floor SJR Hamilton Homes Apts 80 feet Road Gattahalli B'luru-560099, have changed my name to Dhiresh Shenoy for all Purposes.

I, Ravi Mohan S/O, Mohan Narayan Swamy R/o No 19, Ashwa Vandhana, 2nd Floor Rbi Colony, 2nd Main Road, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Ravi Mohan Swamy for all purposes.

I, Caroline Moses w/o Sudeesh Anthony, R/o No-1181/2, 2nd Cross Keerthi Layout Kammanahalli B'luru-560084 have changed my name to Caroline Anthony for all Purposes.

I Lakshmi W/O, Mohan Narayan Swamy R/o No. 19, Ashwa Vandhana, Ff1, 2nd Main Road, Rbi Colony, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru – 560032 have changed my name to Lakshmi Mohan Swamy for all purposes.

I, S Srikanth Rao S/O, S Ramachandra Rao R/o No 16, Vaishnavi, 1st Cross, 3rd Phase, Bsk 3rd have changed my name to R Srikanth Rao for all purposes.

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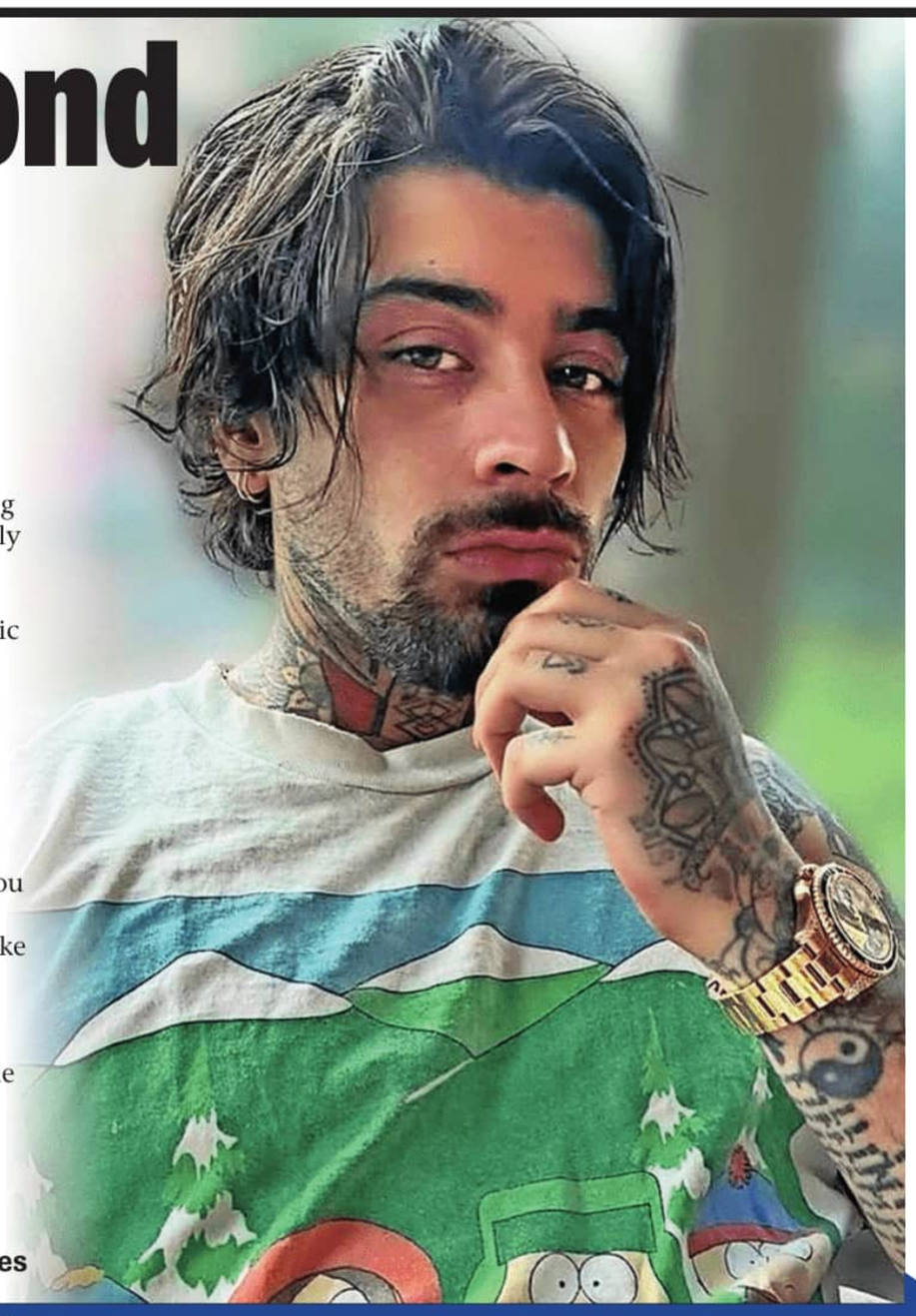
 # Tribute to legend
Shreya Ghoshal paid tribute to Asha Bhosle, calling her beloved guru during London concert

Zayn's India bond

Zayn Malik opens up about India, its music, films, and how his heritage deeply shapes his artistry



Singer Zayn Malik is opening up about his deep connection to India, its culture, cinema and music. The star, who launched his latest album, Konnakol, revealed in his latest chat that despite never having visited India, he feels a strong pull towards the country.

"I've never been to India in my entire life," he said in an interview with Elle India, adding, "I had plans to come last year, but work got in the way. I want to go back to the motherland and feel the dirt under my feet."

> "Despite never visiting India, Zayn feels connected through Indian films and music

Malik also spoke about his longstanding affinity for Indian films, revealing that they form part of his routine. "I'm always watching Indian films," he said, naming Main Hoon Na, starring Shah Rukh Khan, as a personal favourite.

Sharing his admiration for Indian music, Malik said, "I'm listening to the music—some of the best sound scores in the world." He added, "I know I'm biased; I partially come from India… but the level of meticulousness that's conveyed through even the instrument playing is ridiculous, so complex, and it really interests my brain."

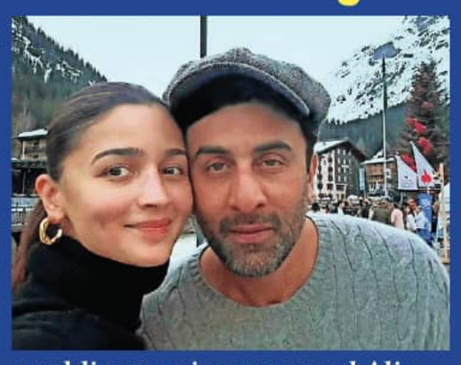
He emphasised that the emotional depth of Indian music resonates strongly with him. "I think the thing I really love about Indian music is that it feels like it comes from the soul," he noted. "It's uplifting, it's positive, it's about the possibility of love… the idea that when you fall in love, it's going to be a fairytale. It doesn't quite work like that in reality, but the idea is nice."

Discussing his work, Malik said he consciously incorporates South Asian influences into his music while maintaining global appeal. "It's always important for me to bring my culture into things because I feel that's what makes me, me." He also thanked Indian fans for their unwavering support. **—Etimes**

Alia, Ranbir mark anniversary with snowy escape

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor continue to charm fans as one of Bollywood's most adored couples, thanks to their natural chemistry, sweet moments, and strong partnership both on and off screen. From starring together in Brahmstra: Part One – Shiva to stepping into parenthood, the duo has consistently served major relationship goals.

On April 14, the couplemarked their fourth

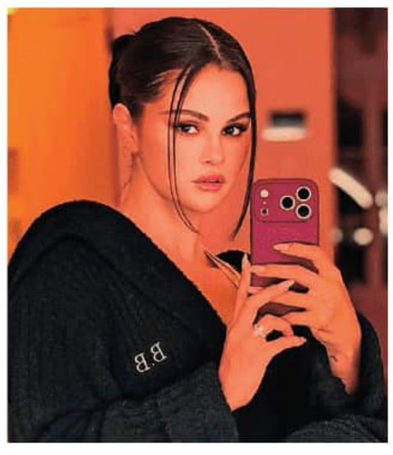


wedding anniversary, and Alia Bhatt offered fans a glimpse into their picturesque holiday. Taking to social media, Alia shared a series of photos and clips from their snowy getaway. The post opens with a cosy selfie of the couple, followed by a video of them skiing against a backdrop of snow-covered peaks. They also unwind with warm beverages while enjoying the tranquil surroundings. One heart-melting moment shows Ranbir Kapoor bonding with their daughter Raha as they feed alpacas. Though Alia did not disclose the exact location, the visuals suggest Gstaad.

Accompanying the post, Alia wrote: "somewhere betwee gliding and falling, walking and a lot of talking.... we made ourselves a pretty wonderful life. In short ..Tu saath hain toh din raat hain." She paired the post with music from Highway. Fans flooded the comments wit love.

On the work front, the pair reunite in Love & War, with release delayed due to ongoing production setbacks. **—Etim**

Selena praises Demi



The two longtime friends reunited backstage as Demi Lovato kicked off her 'It's Not That Deep Tour'. Selena Gomez and Demi Lovato share one of Hollywood's most enduring friendships, and their bond was on full display this week as Gomez showed up to support Lovato on opening night in Orlando.

Gomez, best known for her music career and her starring role in Only Murders in the Building, attended the concert at the Kia Center on April 13 and later shared a series of Instagram Stories praising Lovato's performance. Posting a black-and-white image of Lovato on stage, Gomez wrote, "I am in tears.@ddlovato, hands down best show ever."

—Etimes

David Dhawan is making a return to the big screen with his signature three-way rom-com chaos in 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'. On Tuesday, the makers unveiled the much-anticipated teaser featuring Varun Dhawan opposite Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde, promising a whirlwind of laughter and love triangles.

The teaser opens with two AI-generated toddlers discussing their parents. They notice their mothers have different names but suspect they might share the same father. The narrative then introduces Jass (Varun Dhawan), a carefree man, along with Baani (Mrunal Thakur) and Preet (Pooja Hegde). A recreated version of the song 'Ishq Sona Hai' from the 1999 film 'Biwi No. 1', starring Salman Khan and Sushmita Sen, plays in the background, adding a nostalgic touch and enhancing the teaser's playful tone significantly.

The film marks Varun's first collaboration with Mrunal and Pooja, and his fourth project with his father David Dhawan after 'Main Tera Hero', 'Judwaa 2', and 'Coolie No. 1'. The supporting cast includes Chunky Pandey, Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Sheirgill, and Mouni Roy. The film will be released in theatres on May 22. 'Border 2' earned Rs 400 crore globally, featuring Sunny Deol and Diljit Dosanjh. **times**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

First of its kind!

Aditi, billed as a first of its kind movie that is filmed in five takes, is set to arrive in theatres in June. The film, supported by Millennium Ad Media and helmed by Nelson Rogers W, has already generated buzz for its experimental storytelling. Nelson has also written the script and screenplay. The team recently unveiled the audio and teaser at a launch event attended by Chetan Kumar, known for Aa Dinagalu, who attended as chief guest.

Speaking at the event, Nelson Rogers W said the film belongs to the psychological thriller genre. "The movie revolves around a girl, filled with suspense. Filming was completed in five takes, each lasting 20-25minutes.

We organised a month-long workshop," said the director, thanking PKH Das.

The film will release in multiple languages, with dialogues written by women.

Voices beyond stigma

Kannada movie Kendada Seragu, based on a novel with similar title, is scheduled for release on Friday. The film's trailer, released recently, has gained traction among moviegoers, building anticipation ahead of its theatrical debut.

Veteran actress Malashri plays a cop in the film, which marks the directorial debut of Rocky Somli. "I have been working as an associate for Kannada movies for the last eight years. I am making my debut as an independent director in Sandalwood with this movie which is based on a novel written by me. The novel won an award from Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara," said the director.

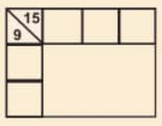
Elaborating on the story, he said the film focuses on the struggles of sex workers who do not want their daughters to follow the same path. "The movie not only explores the problems of sex workers but also conveys a message to society. The movie emphasises better opportunities for children of sex workers to lead a decent and dignified life," he added.

The team filmed for 42 days in Davangere and Bengaluru, featuring Bhoomi Shetty, Sindhu Lokanath and Harish Aras.

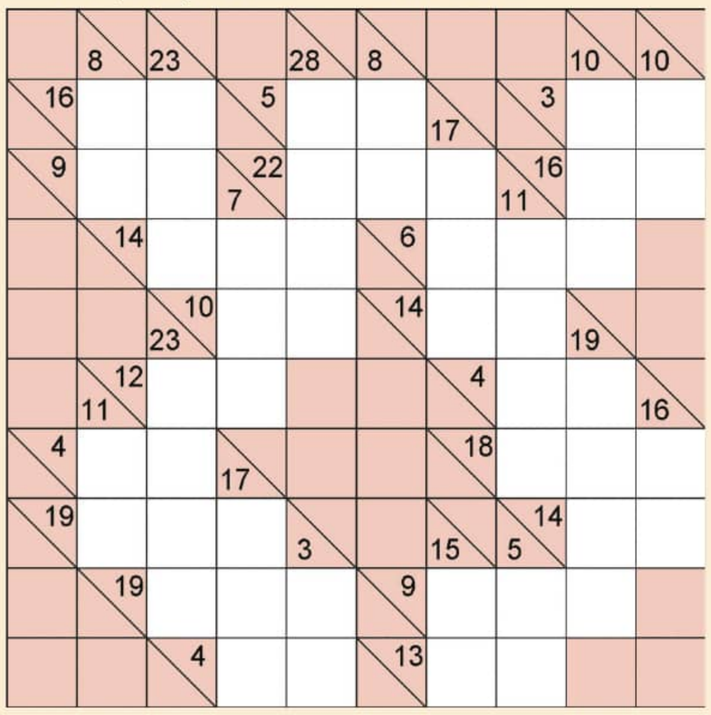
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

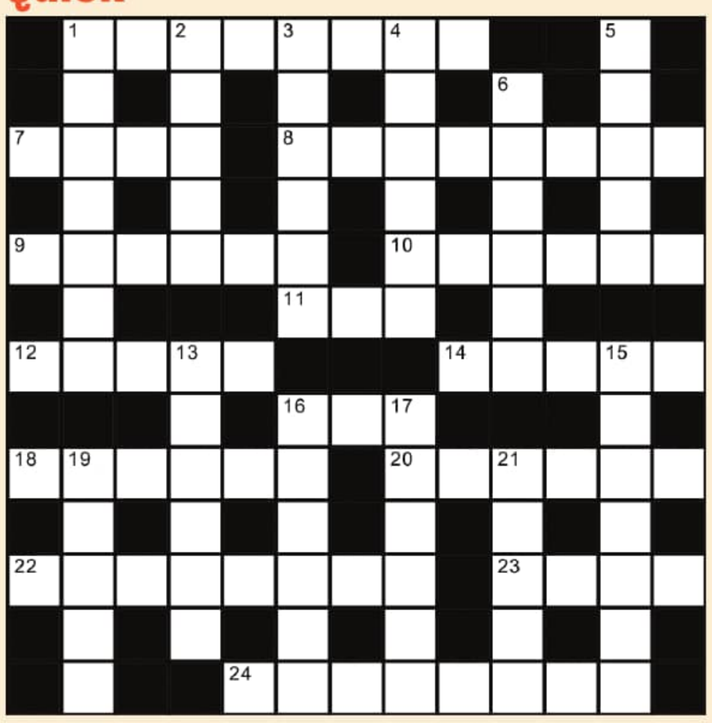
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Time-wasting (8)
7 French cleric (4)
8 Swiss cheese–"lament me" anagram (8)
9 Reddish brown (6)
10 Russian currency (6)
11 Tibetan animal (3)
12 Card game (5)
14 Parts of speech (5)
16 Female ruff (3)
18 Karnataka tourist destination known for its sculptures and red sandstone cliffs (6)
20 Former Sri Lankan batsman Atapattu (6)
22 Russian grandmother (8)
23 Jab or prod at (4)
24 Enfeebled, debilitated (8)

DOWN

1 Corrupt, seduce (7)
2 Ogles lustfully (5)
3 XX in old Rome (6)
4 Comment (6)
5 Easily broken (5)
6 Diffident or uncertain (6)
13 Social position (6)
15 ___ out : obliterated or obscured? (7)
16 Ex-West Indies skipper Richardson (6)
17 Go on board (6)
19 A proverb (5)
21 City in North Yorkshire (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS H

E FEK RJEWQOA RYQ UNJOS NWQJ BK AQEJXY ND UYER YQ KQQSA EKS JQRLJKA YNFQ RN DBKS BR.

Linemaro

Hey, I'm not actually this tall, I'm just sitting on my wallet

Mindchow

We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act but a habit

Joke of the day

Patient: Obesity runs in our family
Doctor: No, problem is that no one runs in your family

Loop

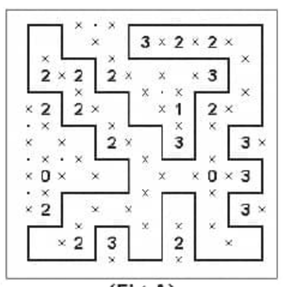
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

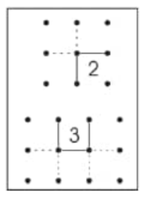
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

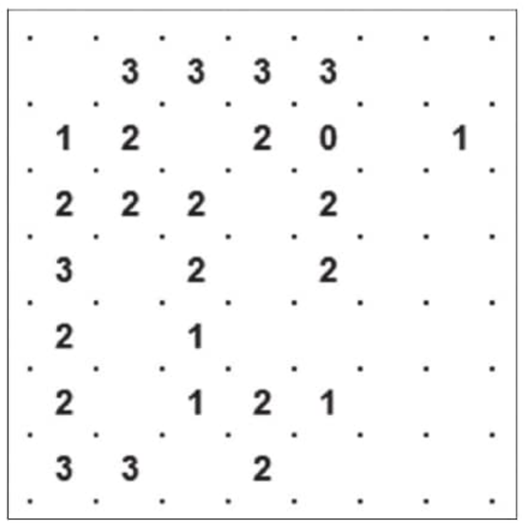
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



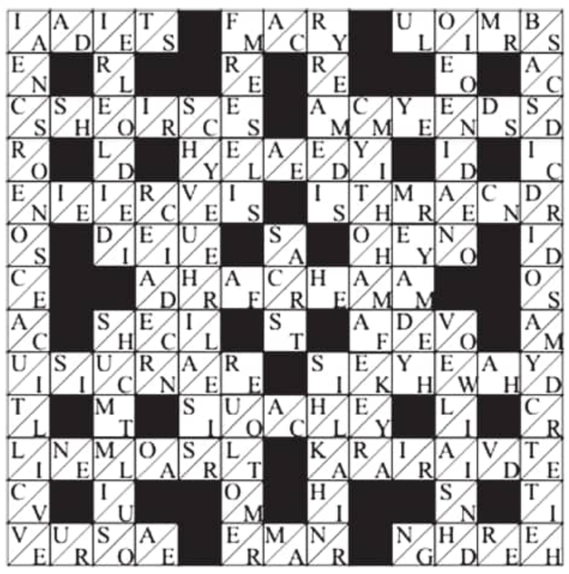
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 M	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

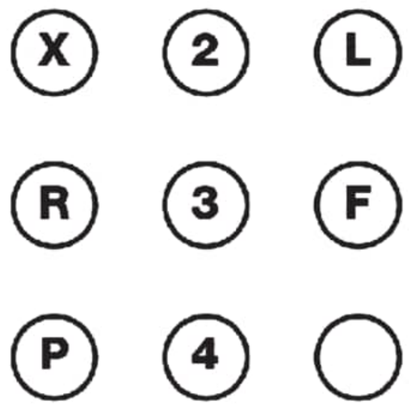
1 Say Ms; 6 At lee; 7 Or sin; 8 Is Hen; 9 Gnash

DOWN

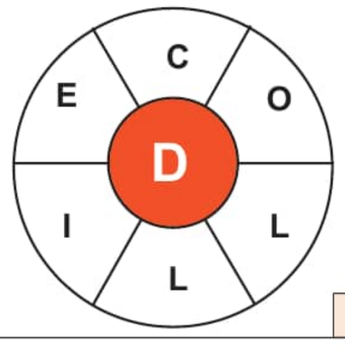
1 NHS me; 2 Ala ho; 3 Ranis; 4 Tings; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

What goes in the empty circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	1		9		7	2	
7	2			1			6	8
5	3						7	9
	9		8		6		5	
4	8						1	2
2	7			3			4	6
	5	4		2		1	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18
2 9 4 3

Medium = 6
3 5 9 1

Hard = 21
2 4 4 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

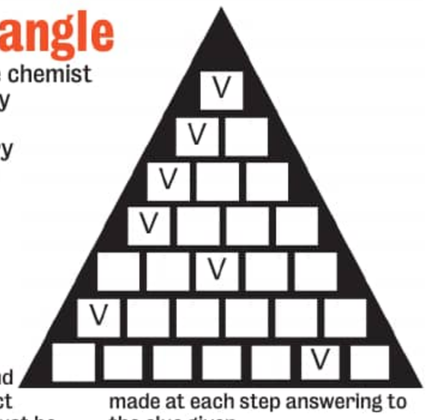
Differences: 1. Tire is different. 2. Fingers are showing on ladder. 3. Woman's collar is different. 4. Paint can is missing. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Shoulder strap is moved.

Riddler

Once there was a night watchman who had been caught several times sleeping on the job. The boss issued the final warning. On the next night he was caught with his head on his hand and his elbows on the desk. "Aha, I've caught you again," exclaimed the boss. The watchman's eyes popped open immediately and he knew what had happened. Being a quick thinking man, he said one word before looking up at the boss. The boss apologized profusely and went home. What was the one word?

Alpha triangle

1 Vanadium for the chemist
2 May 8, 1945: _ Day
3 Pug physician
4 Green, in heraldry
5 Steeple-head pin
6 Moral goodness
7 Underhand

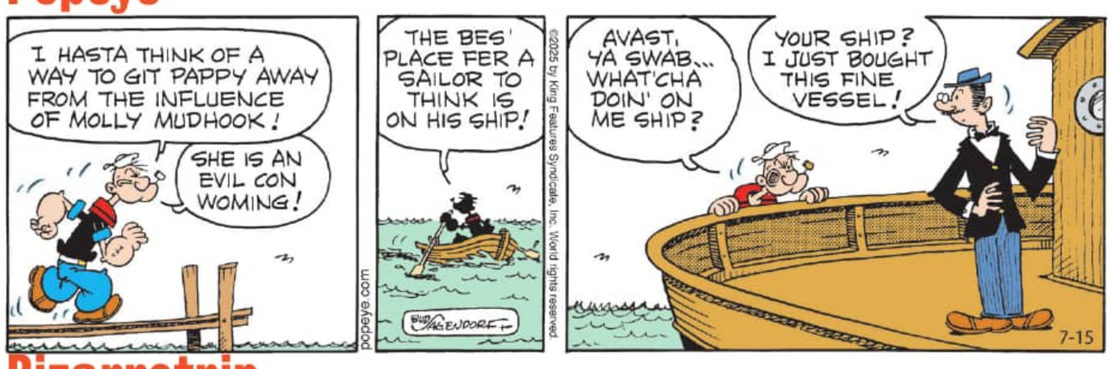


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I HASTA THINK OF A WAY TO GIT PAPPY AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF MOLLY MUDHOOK!
SHE IS AN EVIL CON WOMING!
THE BES' PLACE FER A SAILOR TO THINK IS ON HIS SHIP!
AVAST, YA SWAB... WHAT'CHA DOIN' ON ME SHIP?
YOUR SHIP? I JUST BOUGHT THIS FINE VESSEL!
7-15
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 1.3.26
I should think you have enough clues to determine a diagnosis.
©2026 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM
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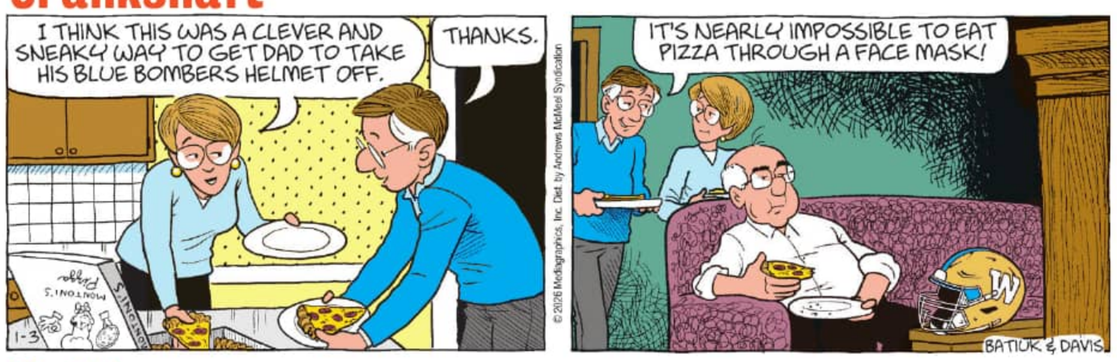
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

EVERY TEAM HAS A TROPHY EXCEPT FOR THE BASKETBALL TEAM. WE'RE NEVER GONNA GET ONE.
HAVE SOME SCHOOL SPIRIT. YOU NEVER KNOW! MAYBE THIS IS THEIR YEAR.
SURE! AND MAYBE I'LL PULL A BLACK LOTUS IN MY NEXT MYSTICS THE GROUPING PACK.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I THINK THIS WAS A CLEVER AND SNEAKY WAY TO GET DAD TO TAKE HIS BLUE BOMBERS HELMET OFF.
THANKS.
IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EAT PIZZA THROUGH A FACE MASK!
BATIUK & DAVIS
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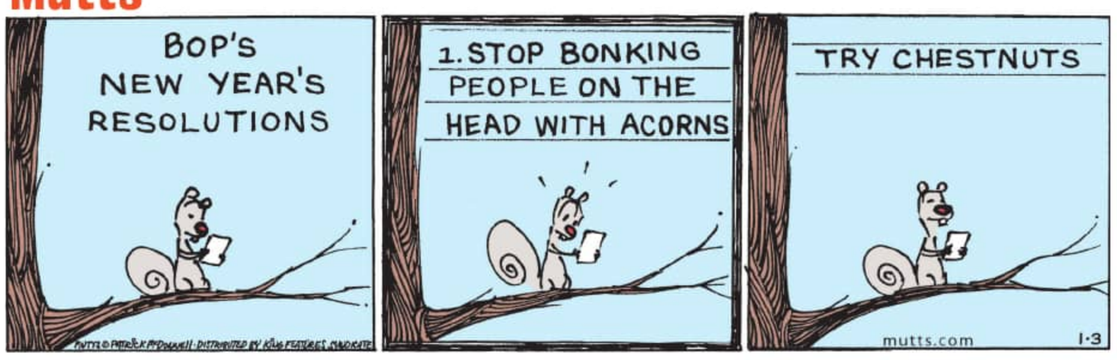
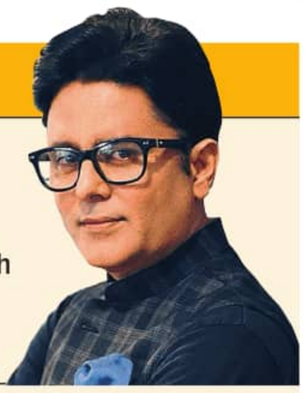
Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your birthday signals a year where patience, determination, and curiosity pay off. Travel linked to career growth brings valuable connections. Romance feels grounding, affectionate, and sincere. Finances improve gradually through practical planning and wise choices. Home life provides comfort, creativity, and shared laughter. Follow opportunities bravely, trust your timing, and remember every small effort this year builds remarkable progress ahead.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today encourages openness, Aries. Over thinking lately may have slowed your progress. Share your concerns honestly with a trusted friend; expressing yourself freely will lighten your emotional burden.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Strengthening relationships becomes important today, Taurus. Loved ones may need reassurance about your feelings. Express appreciation openly so they feel valued despite your busy routine.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

If you've felt misunderstood recently, Gemini, today invites clear communication. Speak openly about your thoughts and emotions so others understand you properly and confusion disappears.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You may receive plenty of social attention today, Cancer. Friends and acquaintances will want your company. Enjoy the spotlight but pace yourself so the excitement doesn't feel overwhelming.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Set clear boundaries today, Leo. Someone might try convincing you to follow their plans. Stay focused on your personal goals and avoid letting outside pressure distract you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Time may feel unusually limited today, Virgo. Tasks could move faster than expected, leaving little room for delay. Careful planning will help you stay organized and productive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Observe quietly today, Libra. Workplace interactions may reveal people's true intentions. Rather than reacting immediately, simply notice who earns your trust and who does not.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Even though things are going well, you may worry unnecessarily today, Scorpio. Relax and trust the positive momentum surrounding you. Confidence will help you achieve what you desire.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Work may feel uncertain right now, Sagittarius. Instead of rushing solutions, allow situations to unfold naturally. Slowing down will bring clarity and prevent unnecessary mistakes.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Acceptance becomes important today, Capricorn. Not everyone will share your opinions, even if they care deeply about you. Respecting differences helps maintain harmony in your relationships.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Stay active and mindful of your health today, Aquarius. Changing weather or fatigue may tempt you to rest excessively. Light exercise and movement will restore your energy.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You may question your life direction today, Pisces, especially if plans haven't unfolded perfectly. Stay patient and confident, opportunities you've been waiting for may soon appear.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Khushala, Bengaluru

Mahiya, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE

clod, code, coiled, cold, COLLIDE, coll, dice, dill, doc.ile, doll, iced, idle, idol, lied, lode, oiled, olde

SOLVE IN 1M

= (14*3*5) / (15*2*8) + (3/4)
= 42*5 / 240 + (3/4)
= 210 / 240 + (3/4)
= 7 / 8 + 3 / 4
= (7+6) / 8 = 13/8

RIDDLER The one word was "AMEN", thus making the Boss believe he was praying rather than sleeping.

FAST FIVE

M	A	S	S	Y
E	L	A	T	E
N	O	R	I	S
S	H	I	N	E
H	A	N	G	S

STRIKE OUT

I	D	E	S		F	A	R		L	I	M	B		
N		R			R		E			O		A		
C	H	O	I	C	E		A	M	E	N	D	S		
O		D		H	E	A	D	Y		I		I		
N	I	E	C	E	S		S	T	R	A	N	D		
I		M		S	O	C	L	E		L		C		
T	S	U	R	E	R		S	K	Y	W	A	Y		
U		H	E	L		T		A	D	O		M		
C		D	R	A	C	H	M	A				O		
E		I		A		H	E	N				I		
S		E		S		T	R	A	N	D		S		
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T		S		I		O						V		
S		I	N	E		T						E		
R	I	V	E		A	R		P	O	K	E			
C		L		E		L		I		C				
Y		K		R		S		V		A				
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QUICK

D	I	L	A	T	O	R	Y							
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C				Y	A	K		R						
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		T		R	E	E				L				
W	H	I	S	T			V	E	R	B	S			
C				Y	A	K		R						
R	U	S	S	E	T		R	O	U	B	L	E		
A		R		N		A		S		I				
A	B	B	E		E	M	M	E	N	T	A	L		
E		E		W		E		U		R				
												D		

MENSA PUZZLE

A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

QUOTE UNCODE

D. In each row, divide the numerical value of the left hand letter by the number in the centre column to give the numerical value of the right hand letter.

SUDOKU

3	6	5	2	8	7	4	9	1
8	4	1	6	9	5	7	2	3
7	2	9	4	1	3	5	6	8
5	3	6	1	4	2	8	7	9
1	9	2	8	7	6	3	5	4
4	8	7	3	5	9	6	1	2
2	7	8	5	3	1	9	4	6
6	5	4	9	2	8	1	3	7
9	1	3	7	6	4	2	8	5

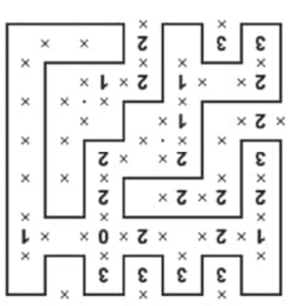
ALPHA TRIANGLE

V, Ve, Vet, Vert, Rivet, Virtue, Furtive.

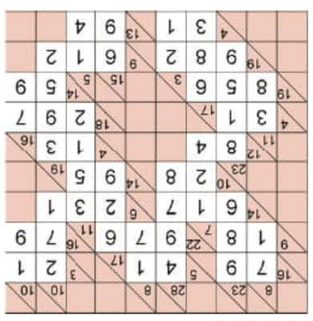
GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 2 + 9 + 4 = 18
Medium
9 + 3 − 5 − 1 = 6
Hard
4 / 4 + 2 x 7 = 21

LOOP



KAKURO



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SHY GUY

Sonali Raut reveals Ranveer was nervous doing a bikini photoshoot in early days of career

Ranveer Singh is known for being a people's person and having this high energy. But he wasn't always like this. Model-turned-actor Sonali Raut recently shared an interesting throwback about working with Ranveer Singh during his early days, revealing that the now high-energy star was once quite shy, especially while shooting a bold bikini photoshoot.

Sonali recalled how she was specifically asked to help Ranveer feel at ease on set, as he was new to such glamorous shoots. Having already done bold assignments herself, she was considered the more comfortable one between the two. Reflecting on that phase, she said in a conversation with Filmi Beat, "I know Ranveer very differently. I did a pose with him, and after a few years, he did the same pose with Vaani Kapoor. Ranveer, at that time, was very sweet, very friendly and very nice. He was not like (imitates him) 'Yeah', full of energy, no. Actually, he was very shy because again, it was a bikini shoot."

She further described the atmosphere on set, adding, "It was very bold. It was glamorous. He said, 'This is my first shoot like that, very glamorous, and with a girl who's wearing a bikini.' Yeah, he was so cautious. He was chewing gum, he was wearing perfume... I was chill, and even the photographer was like, 'Sonali, don't make him conscious because you are okay, but he's a little nervous. Please make him comfortable.'"

Sonali also pointed out how different Ranveer's personality was back then compared to his flamboyant public image today. Recalling a moment from the shoot, she said he told her, "You know, Sonali, it's my first shoot. You know, I'm wearing clothes." She laughed as she responded, "I said, 'Yeah, you are wearing clothes, what are you nervous about?' Then he repeated this pose (with Vaani Kapoor)."

—ETimes

Saiyaara team to reunite

Fresh off the blockbuster success of Saiyaara in 2025, Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda are set to reunite for another exciting project, once again teaming up with director Mohit Suri.

The trio is back for "an intense romance laced with heart-tugging music". The film will be backed by Yash Raj Films and will be a blend of "heartfelt storytelling with unforgettable melodies", as per a press note.

Excited about the film, Mohit Suri in a press note said, "It's always been love stories for me ... overwhelming -- when emotions are so unbound , self-consuming and become impossible to ignore. Love is supposed to be felt intensely and that's why I naturally gravitate towards this as a storyteller. The film explores this unabashedly... so coming back with the same team from Saiyaara feels incredibly special, maybe it was always written in the stars.

—ANI

Love letter to self-exploration

Hollywood actress Lily Collins has a different way of looking at things. The actress has shared that she feels her superhit streaming show 'Emily in Paris' is a "love letter to exploration of oneself".

The 37-year-old actress has played Emily Cooper in the hit Netflix romcom since 2020, and Lily insists there's more to the show than immediately meets the eye, reports 'Female First UK'.

The actress, who is the daughter of musician Phil Collins and his second wife, Jill Tavelman, told 'People' magazine, "In general, the show is a love letter to exploration of oneself, and I think a lot of that's also done through the female friendships and the work relationships and the female camaraderie".

She added, "So it's a romance with the city, it's a romance with oneself, and it's about finding oneself".

As per 'Female First UK', Netflix recently confirmed that Emily in Paris has been renewed for a sixth season. The hit show, which stars Lily as American marketing executive Emily Cooper, will head to Greece and Monaco for season six.

—IANS

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100 out of 100	4 SUBJECTS	3 SUBJECTS	2 SUBJECTS	1 SUBJECT
	5	21	83	254

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